



H.Con.Res. 207 – Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the United States Air Force as an independent military service

Floor Situation

H.Con.Res. 207 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative John Spratt (D-SC) on September 7, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 207 is expected to be considered by the House of Representatives on September 18, 2007.

Summary

H.Con.Res. 207 remembers, honors, and commends the achievements of the United States Air Force in serving and defending the United States on the 60th anniversary of the creation of the United States Air Force as an independent military service.

Background

In 1907, the Aeronautical Division of the United States Army Signal Corps, consisting of one officer and two enlisted men, began operation under the command of Captain Charles DeForest Chandler. They were charged with the responsibility for “all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects”.

In 1909, the Wright Brothers were contracted by the Department of War to build one plane for the military. As the country began expanding more planes were built and the fleet expanded. The Department of War, managed this air fleet until it was given the separate status in 1941.

On June 20, 1941, the Department of War created the Army Air Forces (AAF) as its aviation element. Shortly after, the Department of War made the AAF co-equal to the Army Ground Forces.

On July 26, 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947. This legislation realigned and reorganized the Armed Forces and created a separate Department of the Air Force from the existing military services.

Airmen around the world are committed to fighting and winning the Global War on Terror and have flown more than 430,000 sorties to precisely target and engage insurgents who attempt to violently disrupt rebuilding in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Since 2003, more than 30,000 airmen and sailors have been retrained to carry out duties they normally wouldn't be called on to do, like run vehicle convoys, take part in street patrols, and get used to the sound of an AK-47 — the weapon of choice for insurgents in Iraq.

Currently there are 338,853 active-duty airmen in the United States Air Force.

Cost

At the time of printing the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not scored this legislation.

Staff Contact

For questions or further information contact Luke Hatzis at (202) 226-2302.